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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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Period Prior to 1944

1. The poverty of the Bulgarian subsoil, together with the industrial backwardness of the country, permitted neither an appreciable production of copper ore in Bulgaria nor the research for new deposits. It is known that the annual production of copper in the period 1922-1930 was 25,000 tons. This ore was almost all exported as Bulgaria had no ore processing facilities. 25X1

2. Copper mines known to have been in existence prior to 1944 are as follows (see also Appendix, pages 4 and 5):

   a. Plakalnitsa (south of Vratsa, N 43-12, E 23-32, along the Iskŭr River), making use of the Eleseyna (N 43-04, E 23-29) Foundry;

   b. Zone south of Burgas;

   c. Belogradshik area (N 43-38, E 22-40), the Stchiaste Mine;

   d. Samokov area (N 42-19, E 23-33), the Ikononot Mine;

   e. Kyustendil area (N 42-17, E 22-41), the Blagodat Mine;

   f. Burgas area, the Truda and Igok Mines;

   g. Vratsa area, the Sgori Grav Mine;

   h. Sofia area, the Balkan Mine; and

   i. Asenovgrad area (N 41-59, E 24-52), the Tsar Asen Mine.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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Period Subsequent to 1944

3. After 1944, when the Communist Party came into power, the USSR spurred on the extraction of ore from the old mines and research for new deposits, being interested in a more thorough exploitation of the country. For this purpose the Bulgarian-Soviet company "Gorubso" was formed.

4. At the present time the most important copper deposits are allegedly found in the Rhodope Mountain area around Madan (N 41-30, E 24-57) and Kŭrdzhali (N 41-59, E 25-21). Kŭrdzhali is the collection and sorting point of the ores and is allegedly connected with the mines by means of a cable line. The production centers in the Rhodope mines are said to be:

   a. Strashimir (near N 41-26, E 24-59);

   b. Ribnitsa (N 41-28, E 24-52);

   c. Madan (N 41-30, E 24-57);

   d. Sharenka (N 41-29, E 24-55);

   e. Laykov-Churak (sic);

   f. Srednogortsi (N 41-32, E 24-55);

   g. Konski Dol (north of Borieva);

   h. Borieva (N 41-27, E 24-58);

   i. Rudozem (N 41-29, E 24-51);

   j. Krushev Dol (N 41-27, E 24-57); and

   k. Petrovitsa (N 41-26, E 24-58).

5. Seventy-five percent of the national production is exported to the USSR.

6. All the mines, old and new, are allegedly in activity and employ a total of about 14,000 miners and other workers. About 4,000 of these are Trudovaks.

7. Many buildings to be used as living quarters, schools, offices, and public buildings are allegedly being constructed in the Southern Rhodope area. Settlements in this area are to be gradually transformed from small villages into as many cities "of a certain importance."

8. The ore processing installation at Kŭrdhali is reportedly being enlarged. This plant, which was constructed by the Germans during World War II, now bears the name "Georgi Dimitrov." Other similar plants are allegedly under construction at the following locations:

   a. Madan (18 kilometers east of Rudozem);

   b. Twenty kilometers east of Zlatograd (N 41-23, E 25-04), two kilometers from the Zlatograd-Borieva road;

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c. Srednogortsi, along the road which connects Madan and Rudozem; and

d. Rudozem (now Chervenkovgrad).

9. An auto pool is allegedly in use at Rudozem to compensate for the lack of rail connections.

10. Construction of a new cable line to connect the mines of Laykov-Churak, Borieva, and Sharenka with Kŭrdzhali is started. 25X1

11. The equipment and machinery in use in this area is almost completely of Soviet origin. 25X1

12. The production of the various mines is not known, and therefore it is not possible to estimate the total copper production of Bulgaria. however, the present production is superior to that of the pre-war period. 25X1

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APPENDIX

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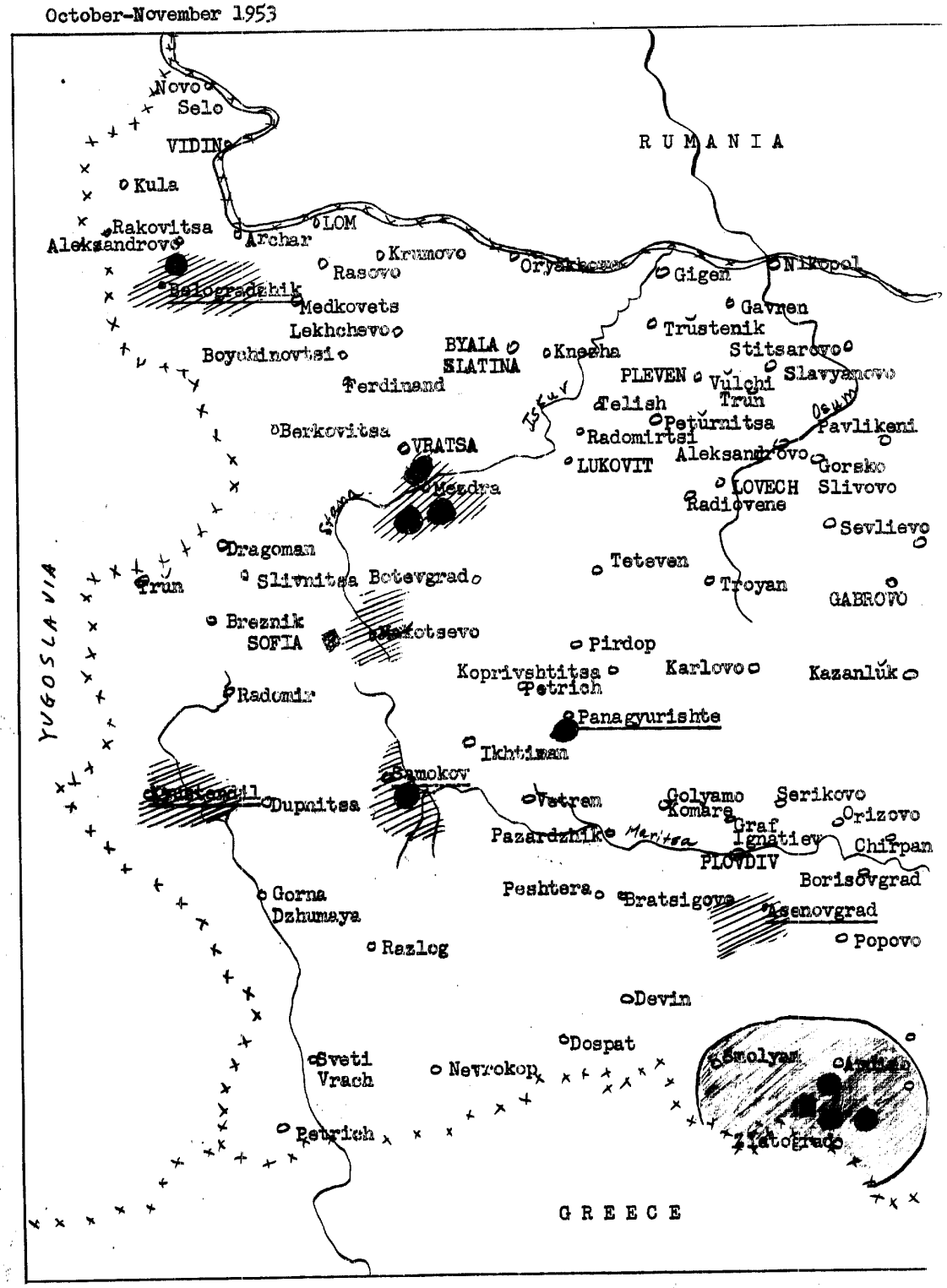
Bulgarian Copper Deposits

October-November 1953



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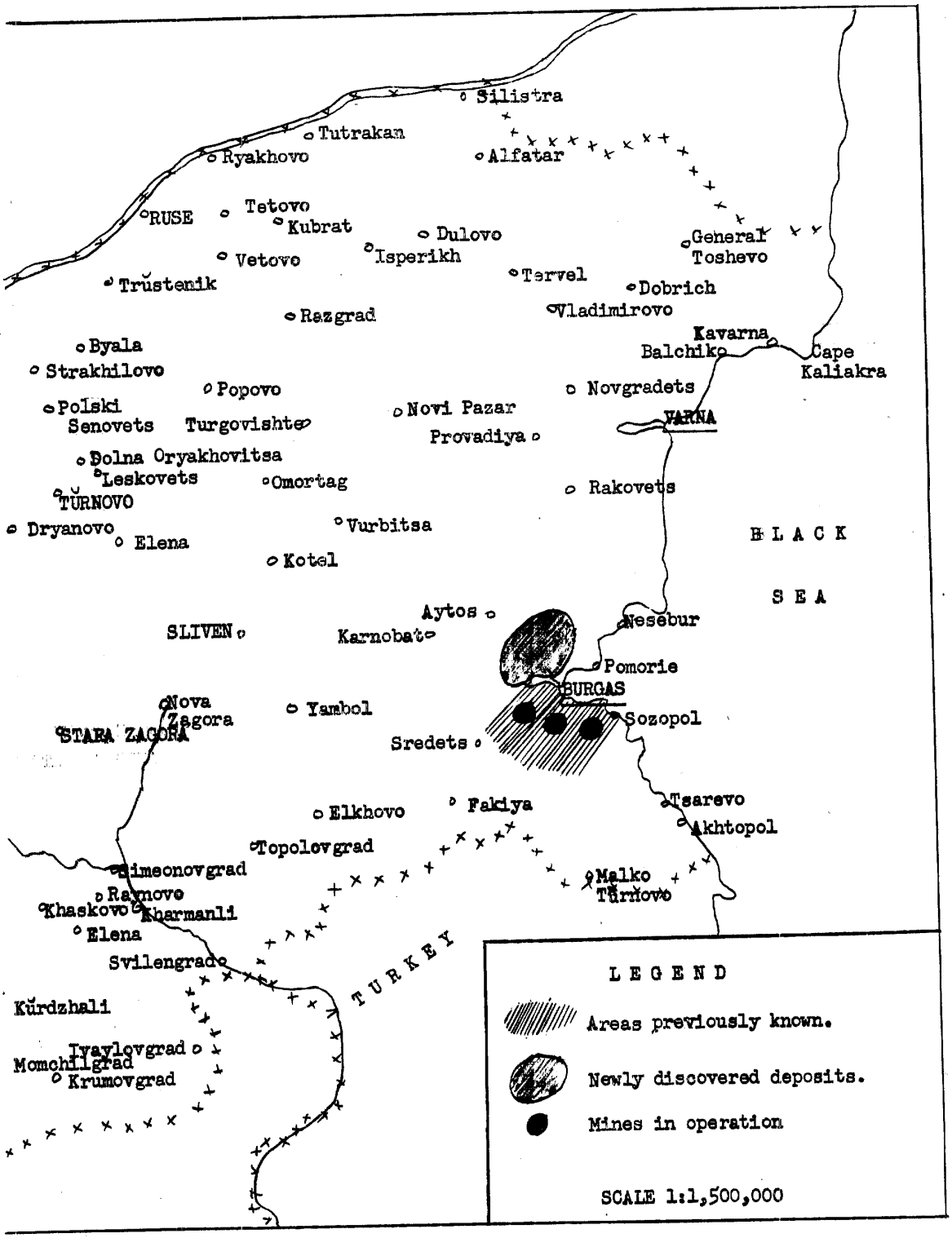

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